

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Because of the severe cold of the winter of 1952-1953 and the summer drought of 1953, agricultural production in Bulgaria this year was 30-40 percent below that of the previous year. In spite of the difficulties they have suffered themselves, the peasants are taking a malicious pleasure in the fact that because of the crop failure the Bulgarian Government will not be in a position to fulfill its foreign trade obligations. Stock breeding has likewise suffered from the shortage of foodstuffs.
2. The output of timber, on the other hand, is not below normal. The cutting is done by forced labor and most of the timber is sent to Hungary and to the Soviet Union. One of the largest furniture factories in Bulgaria, that of the Belovo area, is now making railroad sleeping cars.
3. The output of minerals is down 30 to 40 percent because the miners are undernourished. Production at the Pernik Coal Mine is low, and there may not be sufficient coal to cover the needs of the Bulgarian railroads. In this case the Government would have to import foreign coal.
4. Most of the Soviet tractors allotted to the collectives have become useless because of poor construction. However, the Soviets, refusing to admit this, have accused the responsible officials in the Ministry of Agriculture of sabotage.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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